

California Cotton Ginners & Growers Associations

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September 20, 2007

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor, State of California

State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **“Delta Vision” – Embryonic Draft of “A Vision for Durable Management of a Sustainable Delta**

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

On behalf of the cotton growers and cotton gins in the State of California, I would like to express our comments on the first draft of this “Delta Vision Concept.” Most of our concern lies with the fear that this is yet one more exercise in futility, destined to fill up bookshelves everywhere. If this year’s emergencies on the delta with the shutdown of the state and federal pumping stations are an indication of things to come, anything short of the construction of a new “through delta conveyance system” will be a failure in our opinion.

We are of the opinion that a delta conveyance system can and must be built. Current estimates put the cost at less than \$4 billion and many of the impediments expressed in the past can be overcome. The instability in water supply in this state has become severe and chronic. No longer can growers in the San Joaquin Valley adequately plan cropping patterns each year. Crop decisions are made at the last minute, often resulting in fallowing of land or converting away from crops such as cotton. More than 50,000 acres has been taken out of production in the west side of the San Joaquin Valley as a result of lack of water supply, and recent court decisions as a result of the Delta Smelt will only serve to dramatically exacerbate this issue. Hundreds of jobs are being lost with every acre that gets taken out of production.

We appreciate the Vision’s claim that “the Delta is not sustainable,” and we are especially grateful for the recognition that water provision is an “overriding priority.” We are concerned; however, that every positive suggestion is followed by a caveat, thereby diluting any enthusiasm we have for this to be a meaningful effort. In short, further study is not needed. Further action is! We need the moving of dirt and the pouring of concrete! We are supportive of all efforts to create a more stable water supply

in this state, including additional surface storage in the form of new reservoirs, and a cross Delta conveyance system.

Sincerely,

Roger A. Isom
Vice President and Director of Technical Services